

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

reception of the indulgence granted by the Pope at the hour of death. When day came, extreme unction was administered by the Abbot of Sant' Antimo, whose fall had already been forgiven him.

Catherine lay as though she were unconscious; but, shortly after receiving the unction, she began to change utterly, and to move her face and arms as though enduring a last and most terrible assault from evil spirits. This lasted nearly two hours.

She said, again and again : "*Peccavi, Domine, miserere mei*" ; and : "*Credo, credo*" ; and once, after having been silent for a little, as though hearing an accusation brought against her, she answered with a joyous countenance : " Never vainglory, but always the true glory and praise of Jesus Christ crucified."

Then, as though a victory had been won, her face was suddenly all transfigured, her eyes grew radiant, ^{tc} and it seemed that she had come forth from a great abyss." They helped her to sit up ; and, while leaning upon Monna Alessa in whose arms she had been lying, keeping her eyes fixed upon the Crucifix, she began to speak of the goodness of God, and to make a general confession, accusing herself in particular of negligence in seeking the salvation of souls and the reformation of the Church, and of ingratitude for the divine gifts. " I have not revered the innumerable gifts and graces of so many sweet torments and sufferings as has pleased Thee to lay upon this weak body, and, therefore, I have not borne them with that inflamed desire and love with which Thou hast given them to me." Then she asked again for the

indulgence *a culpa*
et apoena, saying that it had been granted to her
by both Pope
Gregory and Pope Urban. "She spoke,"
writes Barduccio,
"like one that was starving for the blood of Christ."
Turning
to those of her spiritual children who had not been
present at the
discourse which she had uttered "many days before,"
she now told
each (as she had done the others) what she would
have him do
after her life. Pointing to Stefano with her
finger, she said :
" And thee, in virtue of holy obedience, I command
in the name
of God to go by all means to the Carthusian order,
for God has
called and chosen thee to that." She asked
pardon of all with